

GENERAL NEWS

WHAT THE DISPATCHES TELL.

The News Boiled Down and Presented in Convenient Form for Busy Readers.

Sharp frosts were reported at all points in northern New York.

Mayor Seth Low, of New York City, was indorsed for renomination by the fusionists.

Bulgarian officials estimate that fully 50,000 persons have been massacred by Turks in Macedonia.

Hon. William J. Bryan predicted that Tom L. Johnson, Democratic candidate for Governor, would carry Ohio.

Signor Marconi is in St. Louis arranging for the establishment of a wireless telegraph station at the fair grounds.

United States Senator McLaurin of Mississippi has declared in favor of the nomination of W. R. Hearst for President next year.

It was reported that plans for building operations aggregating \$180,000,000 would be abandoned until the condition of labor was more stable.

Seven more indictments were found in the postoffice scandal investigation. Leopold J. Stern, formerly of Baltimore, accused of conspiracy, was found in Canada, and George W. Beavers surrendered in New York.

The trouble in Turkey became acute. There was rioting at Beirut, Syria, in the Turkish empire. It looked at one time as if the American warships would have to attack the town to protect American interests. It is thought now that the danger has passed.

A bill introduced last week in the Alabama Legislature, taking from the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, of which Booker T. Washington is principal, a portion of the appropriation made by the State, has been considered by the Committee on Education, to which it was referred, and decision unanimously reached to report adversely on it. The appropriation now being made will be continued.

Despite the continued high selling prices of raw cotton in the market, and the dullness in manufactured cottons reported by the mercantile agencies, the industrial outlook in the textile centers of New England seems to have distinctly improved since a week ago. Beginning Monday Fall River will make a net gain of one million spindles in operation, with a corresponding increase in hands employed, money put into the pockets of working men and raw material turned into finished products.

And a good man will succeed Judge Wm. H. Taft as governor general of the Philippines when the latter succeeds to the Secretaryship of War. Gen. Luke E. Wright, of Tennessee, who has been a member of the Philippine Commission since its appointment, has been offered and has accepted the governor generalship. He

is a gentleman of fine ability and blameless character, and in his larger field will increase the reputation which he already enjoys.—Charlotte Observer.

The price of cotton took a slump last week, says the Washington correspondent of The Progressive Farmer, due to the encouraging government crop report which indicated that the yield would be nearly 10 per cent over the average, an unexpected announcement in view of previous reports. This week the weather has not been so favorable, but the crop has not been materially injured. Corn is maturing rapidly except in Iowa where much of the late corn needs several weeks more of bright sunshine. In any event the yield over the entire country will not be up to the average, and prices promise to be high.

Political News and Gossip.

In Nebraska—one of the few politically interesting States that hold an election this year—the Republican Convention last week passed resolutions enthusiastically indorsing President Roosevelt for a second term, proclaiming present prosperity to be the result of Republican policies, eulogizing the protective tariff, condemning "combinations of capital having for their purpose the stifling of competition," and demanding such legislation as will enable American-built ships to carry America's foreign commerce. The word subsidy was not used in this last plank, but the subsidy policy was plainly indorsed. Mr. John L. Webster, an Omaha lawyer, was proposed by the Convention as President Roosevelt's associate on the ticket of 1904. In Ohio the contest between Mayor Johnson and John L. Zimmerman, the conservative candidate for the Democratic nomination for Governor, is proving closer than was expected, though the reports still indicate that Mayor Johnson is likely to control the Convention. In Missouri the popular demand that Mr. Folk, the successful prosecutor of the St. Louis and Jefferson City rings, shall be made the Democratic candidate for Governor is increasingly strong—particularly in the rural districts, where Mr. Folk's independent course has not stirred against him influential enemies. Mr. Folk has even been proposed in the "Commoner" as a possible Democratic candidate for the Presidency in 1904. For this last-named position, however, the present range of gossip knows no bounds, and the situation has recalled the epigram made upon the election of President Polk: "Henceforth no private citizen is safe." Several influential Southern Senators have united in indorsing Senator Gorman, of Maryland, but Mr. Bryan has promptly declared that this nomination would no more secure harmony than would that of Mr. Cleveland. It would, he says, eliminate from the campaign the tariff issue, the trust issue, the imperialism issue, and the currency issue, and leave nothing but the question, Who shall hold the offices? Mr. Gorman, he declares, would poll a million less votes than a Democratic ticket with no candidate at all.—New York Outlook.

Our Enormous Pension Bill.

Washington, Sept. 12.—Pension Commissioner Ware has completed and forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior his annual report for the fiscal year just ended, in which he makes a number of interesting recommendations for the benefit of the pension bureau.

Commissioner Ware shows that the total cost of pensions to the government for the past 38 years has been \$2,942,178,145.93 in persons paid and \$95,647,934.71 expended in maintaining the pension service. He estimates that the revolutionary war cost the government \$70,000,000 in pensions; the war of 1812, \$6,234,414.55; the war with Mexico, \$33,483,309.91; the war of the rebellion, \$2,878,240,400.17, and the war with Spain, \$5,479,268, making the total disbursements in pensions \$3,038,623,590.18.

The report explains that in 1890 the cost of the pension system amounted to \$1.40 per \$1,000 of the aggregate wealth of the country. In 1893 it reached \$2.24, and since then gradually declined to \$1.90 in 1895, \$1.50 in 1900 and \$1.32 in the past year.

Is This An American Cotton Trust? Beware!

Memphis, Tenn., September 10.—A plan to revolutionize the cotton business of the United States and place the thirteen cotton producing States of the South in control of the cotton trade of the world has been fully developed in this city by representatives of the legal departments of the railroads operating in the South, Senator McLaurin of Mississippi, and representatives of the Mississippi Valley Cotton Buyers' Association which was organized this week. It is the purpose of the Cotton Buyers' Association of America to fully organize all the handlers of cotton in the Southern States, and this is now being done through the State cotton buyers' associations.

The plan of the Association provides for the establishment and operation of a gigantic system of ware houses in which will be gathered the cotton of the entire South. These warehouses will be established at Memphis, New Orleans, Galveston, Mobile, Pensacola, Atlanta, Charleston and Savannah. The capacity of the plants will be from 75,000 to 150,000 bales. A series of smaller warehouses will also be built in the interior part of the cotton growing districts to take care of the crop as soon as picked.

By means of warehouses the cotton buyers of the country propose to save the growers from \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000 annually lost in country damage. It is their intention to force the European manufacturers to come to America to buy their raw staple and themselves pay the expense of shipping to the United Kingdom or continent. By so doing they claim to be able to insure to the grower a higher price for his cotton and place the Southern States absolutely in control of the cotton trade of the world.

To Hunt the North Pole.

Commander Robert E. Peary, U. S. N., the well-known Arctic explorer, will make another dash for the North Pole. Leave of absence for three years has been granted him with the permission of the President by Mr. Darling, Acting Secretary of the Navy, and he has been assured of the hearty sympathy of both these officials in his new venture.

In his letter of application for leave of absence, Commander Peary briefly outlines his plan of action. In a suitable ship, built in one of our best shipyards, re-enforced and strengthened to the maximum degree and fitted with American engines, "so that she may go North as an exponent of American skill and mechanical ability," Commander Peary hopes to start with his expedition about the 1st of July next.

Indian Department Scandal.

The postal scandal, we are told by a Republican Washington correspondent, will pale into insignificance in comparison with the new Indian scandal, both in the amount of money and the importance of the officials involved, if the charges made by Special Agent Brosius, of the Indian Rights Association, are corroborated. Twenty million acres of land, millions of dollars in money, and the interests of some four hundred thousand Indians are said to be affected. The charges are, in brief, that some of the government officials whose particular business it is to protect the Indians from land "sharks" have themselves formed land and oil companies, and used their official positions to despoil the red men of their land. As one paper puts it, "the watch-dog have joined the wolves."

Mr. Brosius names about half a dozen land companies in his charges, and names a United States internal revenue inspector, a United States District Attorney, an Indian inspector, a clerk of a United States Court, an assistant attorney, and the chairman and another member of the Dawes Indian Commission as officers and promoters of these concerns. These land companies, it is charged, induce the Indians by the temptation of cash payment, or by delays at the office of the Dawes Commission, or by exhausting and expensive delays of litigation, to part with valuable land for next to nothing—often, indeed, when the Indian has no right to sell his land, and the entire transaction is illegal. Complaints of these frauds, it now appears, have been coming in to the Department of the Interior and the Department of Justice for a long time, but by the interesting workings of department machinery the charges have been turned over for investigation to the very men who were to be investigated, so that no great strenuousness has marked the prosecution of the charges hitherto. Now that the allegations have been made public, however, more activity is expected.—Literary Digest.

Our ideals are our better selves.—Alcott.